

2000, that the President inherited an economy that was in recession. It was emerging from a bursting Internet bubble, and the answer to our economic malaise at the time was tax relief, was tax cuts. There was a lot of opposition on the floor of the Senate, but we got them through; sometimes by just a few votes, but we got them through. Now, because of the President's firm, fiscally bold vision and strong fiscal and tax leadership, our economy is doing very well. America's families now feel better off because, indeed, they are better off.

We now have cut taxes for nearly 100 billion hard-working citizens. New home sales were up nearly 14 percent just last month, and minority home ownership is at its highest level ever. Consumer confidence is the highest since May of 2002. The economy has created 5.3 million jobs. Unemployment is down to 4.7 percent, lower than the average of the 1990s, lower than the average of the 1980s, and lower than the average of the 1970s. The tax cuts on capital gains and dividends are benefiting Americans across the income spectrum.

It is interesting that if you look at the income tax returns each year that are reporting capital gains and dividends, almost half of them come from households with reported adjusted gross income of less than \$50,000. Tax relief, capital gains, and dividends go across the economic spectrum.

Overall, the economy has enjoyed 18 consecutive quarters of economic growth. Meanwhile, all of this spurred growth has filled the tax coffers just as anticipated, just as we said it would. As we argued back then, and as history has demonstrated, cutting taxes actually results in increased tax revenues.

In January, the Congressional Budget Office found that the tax cuts on capital gains and dividends resulted in the Government collecting an additional \$26 billion in revenue in 2004 and 2005. This year, tax revenues will be 29 percent higher than they were in 2003 as a result of tax cuts. In fact, the Treasury Department reported last week that this year's tax revenues were the second highest in American history, giving the country a significant surplus for the month.

Last November, we called for extending the alternative minimum tax relief. In February I insisted that Congress keep rates low on capital gains and dividends. Last week, as part of the Tax Increase Prevention Act, we delivered because we always remember that tax dollars are the people's money, not the government's money.

We believe open markets and abundant opportunity unleashes our greatest resource: the energy of the American people and the ingenuity of the American people. Keeping taxes low helps Americans find and keep jobs, it boosts the family budget, and makes America a great place to do business. It allows the entrepreneur to take a chance on that great idea, to reinvest,

to hire more workers, to create jobs. As Republicans, we believe in encouraging that creative and optimistic spirit. It is what has built this country. It is what makes America great.

We will continue to champion economic growth and fiscal responsibility. We will continue to keep America moving forward.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. on Monday, May 22. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 2611, the comprehensive immigration reform bill, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, the Senate has made a lot of progress on the immigration bill. After spending almost 2 weeks on the bill a month ago, we brought the bill back this week, and not knowing exactly what to expect, I set out with a pretty high watermark, a pretty high goal, and that is to consider a number of amendments in an open and free debate and have those amendments voted upon. We have accomplished exactly what I had set out to do.

We are going to have another busy week. We have a recess, Memorial Day recess, after next week, so we have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday to conduct a lot of business. Senators are using the day today—some of them have come to the floor to speak and to debate and talk about the various issues. Others are using it to study amendments for next week. Our next voting will be with two rollcall votes on Monday, at least two votes, maybe others, beginning at 5:30.

The chairman will be here Monday working through the afternoon, working with Senators on their proposed amendments. It is important that we have the language on amendments people might be offering.

We have a lot of other work to do. The supplemental bill is currently in conference. Our colleagues are working very hard, in the House and Senate, so that we can complete that supplemental bill before the Memorial Day recess. The nomination of Brett Kavanaugh also is pending. Brett Kavanaugh has been nominated to the circuit court, and we need to bring him to the floor before we depart for that Memorial Day recess.

A lot of other issues are underway. The pensions conference report is being worked on aggressively, day in, day

out, and I look forward to having that completed so when it is available we will be able to take it to the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:13 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 22, 2006, at 1 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate: May 19, 2006:

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

HORACE A. THOMPSON, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KENT D. TALBERT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

J. C. A. STAGG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 17, 2011.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VINCE J. JUARISTI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING FEBRUARY 8, 2009.

JERRY GAYLE BRIDGES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEORGE MCDADE STAPLES, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR, AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 10506 AND 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CRAIG R. MCKINLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM M. FRASER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. KEVIN P. CHILTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. NORMAN R. SEIP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8036 AND 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES G. ROUDEBUSH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624: